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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BLANTY 01131 030857Z

14
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 FBO-01 A-01 M-03 RSR-01 RSC-01 /026 W
---------- 127901
R 030655Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6397

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AFSP, MI
SUBJ: NEW RULES FOR CONTACTS WITH PRESIDENT BANDA; EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOVE TO LILONGWE

1. MINISTER OF STATE MUWALO NQUMAYO CONVENED HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AUGUST 2 TO LAY DOWN NEW RULES FOR AMBASSADORIAL CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 1973, DATE BY WHICH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY WILL BE OPERATING IN LILONGWE. AFTER THAT DATE MUWALO SAID AUDIENCES WOULD BE GRANTED ONLY AFTER HEADS OF MISSIONS HAVE MADE PERSONAL CALL ON EXTAFF PERMSEC JOHN NGWIRI IN LILONGWE AND HAD CLEARED IN ADVANCE WITH NGWIRI SUBJECT OF DESIRED DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT. MUWALO STRESSED THERE WAS NO GIVE IN THIS PROCEDURE WHICH HAD BEEN LAID DOWN BY PRESIDENT PERSONALLY. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY DIPCORPS, MUWALO EMPHASIZED HE MEANT EXACTLY WHAT HE SAID. CONTACTS IN LILONGWE WITH NGWIRI WERE TO BE MADE IN PERSON BY AMBASSADORS: NO TELEPHONE CALLS; NO SUBSTITUTING BY DCM UNLESS ACTING AS CHARGE. IF AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCES WERE NOT READY IN LILONGWE BY NOVEMBER 1, AMBASSADORS WOULD HAVE TO DRIVE OR FLY THERE TO SEE NGWIRI. MUWALO AFFIRMED HE HAD DOUBLE CHECKED ALL THESE POINTS WITH PRESIDENT PERSONALLY.

2. FOR CASES IN WHICH PRESIDENT SUMMONED AMBASSADORS, MUWALO SAID NGWIRI WOULD ALSO BE CHANNEL. HOWEVER MUWALO AND NGWIRI WERE LESS DEFINITE ON WHETHER THIS WOULD REQUIRE PERSONAL CONTACT NGWIRI/AMBASSADORS PRIOR TO MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT. MUWALO SAID HE "ASSUMED" IT WOULD.
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3. HEADS OF MISSION DISCUSSED MUWALO EDICT INFORMALLY AFTER MEETING. CONSENSUS WAS THAT NEW PROCEDURE UNDERMINES LILONGWE MOVE STRATEGY OF MOST EMBASSIES, NAMELY, THAT DCM OR OTHER OFFICER BE FIRST TO RELOCATE TO LILONGWE FOLLOWED BY AMBASSADORS WHEN PRESIDENT HIMSELF MOVED (EXPECTED LATE 1975). SOME FELT THAT PRESIDENT HAD RECOGNIZED PATTERN EVOLVING AND WAS APPLYING PRESSURE TO ENSURE THAT AMBASSADORS THEMSELVES MADE EARLY MOVES TO NEW CAPITAL. THREE MOST SENIOR AMBASSADORS ASKED WHEN DOYEN AMBASSADOR BURDETT WOULD RETURN, APPARENTLY LOOKING TO US FOR IDEAS ON HANDLING ISSUE.

4. REQUEST FOREGOING BE BROUGHT TO AMB BURDETT'S ATTENTION SINCE CONCEIVABLY MAY HAVE BEARING ON HIS PLANNED DISCUSSIONS WITH FBO RE LILONGWE MOVE. IN LATTER CONNECTION, EMBASSY'S PLANS, BLUE PRINTS AND COST FIGURES BEING POUCHED AMB CARE AF/E AUGUST 3.
FARBER

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